

New Break Bulk Service starts in the Spring of 2010

The Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Seaway System, also known as HWY H2O, is a 3,700 km Marine Highway that has been underutilized in the past years and we feel that there is great opportunity to reach 41 Inland Ports and a market of 100 million people that live in the Great Lakes basin. The Ports in this Region have excellent connectivity to Road and Rail service for inland transportation and are equipped with modern shore side services for the efficient flow of cargo.

Many overseas carriers find the Great Lakes too much of a deviation of trade, or have physical limitations to enter the St. Lawrence Seaway System. Ports like Sept-Isle, Quebec and Sorel will be used as transshipment hubs for steel and non-ferrous metals and Halifax could be added for Project and Ro-Ro cargo. Many carriers from Europe call Halifax as their first discharge on US East Coast and Gulf rotations. Lines from the Mediterranean, Caribbean, South America and Africa call Montreal, Sorel and Halifax as load discharge ports. This opens up new possibilities for part cargoes to be transhipped and carried on smaller vessels to the Great Lakes.

Water transportation is much more efficient and offers significant reductions in Green House Gas Emissions over Rail and Truck movements. Road congestion costs our economy over \$2 Billion per year in lost productivity and with further expansion of the major highways seeming impractical; the HWY H2O option makes perfect sense. We see a service offering that will link between the following Key Ports in the system; Halifax, Sept-Isle, Sorel, Valleyfield, Oshawa, Hamilton, Cleveland, Toledo, Detroit, Windsor, Sault Ste. Marie, Milwaukee, Chicago, Duluth and Thunder Bay.

In the initial start-up phase of the service, existing tug/barge units will be deployed to move steel and non-ferrous metals in the St. Lawrence Seaway and Great Lakes region. Once volumes increase, vessels may be brought into the service to meet customer demand. Specialized ro/ro barges that also offer protection for the cargo will be offered by McKeil Marine at the start of the 2010 shipping season. For further information contact Heiner Theobald, Remington Steel Consultants, 514-620-9259 (office); 514-716-3855 (cell); heinertheobald@videotron.ca